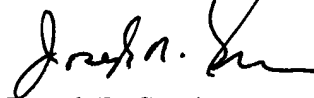


REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-19 will be pending in this application and presented for examination. Early examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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